USAID Country Profile: Moldova October 2003

Capital: Chisinau

Population: 4.28 million (2001 est.)

GDP(current US\$): \$1,479 million (2001)

Population below national poverty line (2001): 23.3%

GDP per capita (current US\$): \$407 (2001)

GDP per capita (purchasing power parity): \$2,550 (2001)

Religion: Eastern Orthodox 98%, Jewish, Baptist **Language:** Romanian (official), Russian and Gagauz

President: Vladimir Voronin Prime Minister: Vasile Tarlev Ambassador to US: Mihai Manoli



National Interest: The United States has a national interest in ensuring security in Moldova and regional stability. The United States also has a national interest in strengthening democracy and a free market economy in Moldova, which until recently has been a model for reform for the former Soviet states. Moldova has been a strong supporter of the war on terrorism, granting the U.S. overflight rights and basing rights.

OVERVIEW OF USAID'S FOCUS IN MOLDOVA

FY03: Total FSA - \$29 million, USAID Total \$22million

Private Enterprise Development (FY03 \$16 million, 73%):

The USAID Private Enterprise Development program in Moldova is made up of three components: technical assistance to private farmers; technical assistance to private businesses (including Western NIS Enterprise Fund and BIZPRO); and energy sector and communication infrastructure reform and development activities.

<u>Democratic Transition (FY03 \$4million, 18%):</u> The USAID Democratic Transition program in Moldova is currently made up of the following components: technical assistance to local government units; small grants to local NGOs through the Eurasia Foundation; and a legal reform program with the local bar association. These activities will be augmented by new citizen participation and political party development programs. USAID will use FY 2003 funds to promote local government reform, rule of law, small grants to NGOs, citizen participation, and political party development programs.

Social Transition (FY03 \$2million, 9%)

The portion of USAID/Moldova's Social Transition Program funded with FREEDOM Support Act resources includes three components: humanitarian and social assistance; health partnerships and combating infectious diseases Tuberculosis (TB); and anti-trafficking of persons.